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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

LAST ISSUE, WE SAW EVIL SONIC-A DEADLY DOPPELGANGER WHO LIVES ON A PLANET MOBIUS WHICH EXISTS IN ANOTHER ZONE-CROSSING OVER TO MOBIUS PRIME AND ASSUMING THE IDENTITY OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

SO WHAT ABOUT SONIC? WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED. THAT'S HIM ON EVIL SONIC'S MOBIUS LAYING TRUSSED UP LIKE A HOLIDAY TURKEY JUST AS THE BAD-@#% DUPLICATES OF SEVERAL FAMILIAR FIGURES HAVE STUMBLED ACROSS HIM...

MY, MY, MY-- WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!

AND IT'S NOT EVEN MY BIRTHDAY!

UGH --THAT SOUNDS LIKE SAL--

--ONLY MEANER!

CHAOS EMERALDS ARE FOREVER

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WAITAMINUTE!!!

I MUST BE ON--

WOOOF!

DITCH ME AND THE OTHERS WHILE YOU DO YOUR OWN THING, WILL YOU?

WELL--PARDON MY BOOT!!!

WHUMMP

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING

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...GROAN...

EAT MY TASER, BACK-STABBER!

OH, YEAH, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AS WELL...

YOU SO MUCH AS *LOOK* AT MY DEVICES *AGAINST* MY WISHES, AND I'LL REALLY GO *MEDIEVAL* ON YOUR TAIL NEXT TIME!

YEEE OWW TCH HHH!

ZZZZT

AS FOR YOU, *TWO-TIMER*, I COULD UNDERSTAND YOU SEEING *SALLY* BEHIND MY BACK--

--BUT *PENELOPE*?! WITH THAT *BEAK*?!

W-WAIT!

THIS IS ALL ONE BIG--

BUNNIE!!! YOU'RE *NOT*--

I MEAN --YOU *DON'T* HAVE--

YOU MEAN I'M NOT PUTTING UP WITH *YOUR ACT* ANY-MORE?

WHOOF!

WHUMPF!

YOU GOT THAT *RIGHT*, BUSTER!

IF IT DIDN'T *HURT* SO MUCH, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE *ANY* OF THIS!

DON'T BE *GREEDY*, GIRLS! IT'S *MY* TURN *NOW*!

MEANWHILE, BACK ON MOBIUS PRIME, EVIL SONIC CAN'T BELIEVE HIS LUCK, EITHER...

WHAT A DOLL!

WHERE WAS SHE ON MY MOBIUS?

SAY, BABE, TODAY'S YOUR LUCKY DAY!

SONIC! YOU STARTLED ME!

WHOOPS!

SHE KNOWS THE TURKEY I'M FAKING! BETTER BE CAREFUL!

SO...WHAT'S UP?

OH--I WAS JUST ON ANGEL ISLAND AND RAN INTO A BIT OF A PROBLEM--

--AND SOMEHOW I ENDED UP HERE!*

I GET THE PICTURE! REAL STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN THERE ALL THE TIME!

*CHECK OUT SONIC #150, STILL ON SALE AT ALL GREAT COMIC STORES AND EVEN SOME SO-SO STORES.

YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN THERE?!

HECK, BABE, IT'S LIKE A SECOND HOME!

KNUCKLES WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITHOUT ME!

THINK YOU COULD SHOW ME AROUND IF WE WENT BACK THERE?

I'LL SHOW YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT--

--EVEN THE CHAOS EMERALD, IF LARGE ROCKS ARE YOUR FANCY!

YOU JUST SAID THE MAGIC WORDS!

LET'S GO!

WHOA!

I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT I SAID--

"--BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME COMPLAINING..."

THIS SOOOO BITES BIG-TIME!

SOMEONE'S GONNA GET A MAJOR SMACKDOWN WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM--

--AND I KNOW JUST THE HEDGEHOG!

PAYBACK'S LE BUMMER, SONIC--

--BUT ZEN AGAIN, YOU'VE HAD ZIS COMING FOR A LONG TIME!

WE DO SO HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR SWIM!

ON MY MARK--

READY--

SET--

--FIRE!

ZZZZ

ZZZT

--BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE!

SPLASH!

AS SONIC FALLS INTO THE DEEP END, EVIL SONIC FINDS HIS FATE JUST AS MUCH UP IN THE AIR...

SO WHERE ARE THE CHAOS EMERALDS?

THAT'S EMERALD, BABE!

THE BIGGEST HUNK O' ROCK YOU'LL EVER LAY EYES ON!

AND IT'S UNDERGROUND IN THAT AREA OVER THERE!

ARE YOU SURE?

IT'S NEAR THE SPOT WHERE I WAS WITH LOCKE.

LOCKE?

WHO'S THAT?

WHY, THAT'S HIM-- COMING OUT OF THE CAVE!

LOOKS LIKE AN OLDER VERSION OF KNUX!

VER-RY INTEREST-ING!

HOW SO?

IF I'M RIGHT, THAT ENTRANCE WILL TAKE YOU--

--TO THE CHAOS CHAMBER, WHERE THE ROCK IS STORED!

REALLY?

I WAS THERE BEFORE!*

*INDEED HE WAS, WAY BACK WHEN IN SONIC #44. GO AHEAD. TAKE A LOOK. WE'LL WAIT.

HMMM...

WAIT HERE FOR MY SIGNAL!

YEEAAHHH? AND THEN?

YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO ONCE I DO!

LOCKE!

THERE YOU ARE!

ROUGE!

NOW YOU REALLY HAVE MY CURIOSITY!

ARE YOU JUST PERSISTENT--OR CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT?

ON A SIMILAR NOTE ELSEWHERE...

WELL?

MAYBE THE OCTOPODS GOT 'IM!

OR THE HIGH LEVEL OF THER-MONIUM!

OR MAYBE--

--NONE OF THE ABOVE!

NO WAY!

ZUT ALORS!

ZOMETHING IN ZEE SOUND OF HIS VOICE--

COULD IT ACTUALLY BE--?

MON DIEU! WHAT AM I THINKING?!

NEVAIR FORGET ZAT IS THE FACE OF THE ENEMY!

ZAT IS THE SCOUNDREL WHO TOOK ME FROM MY HOME AND BROUGHT ME...

...TO ZIS INSANE WORLD!

WELL, ZEN...

--IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

...IT'S TIME TO SLICE AND DICE!

I'LL SHOW HIM TWO CAN PLAY AT THIS GAME!

HEY!!!

SWIIISH

SURRENDER, COCHON!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WISH TO SKEWER LE PIG--

--I MUSTN'T FORGET HE'S MY ONLY MEANS TO RETURN HOME!

ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE LE DAMAGE MY EVIL DOPPELGANGER IS COMMITTING UPON MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS OVER Z HAIR!

CLOSE SHAVE, TWAN, BUT NO--

WHOOPS!

HOW DID MY DEADLY DOUBLE DO IT?

I'M AMAZED I HAVEN'T GOTTEN KILLED WHILE STOMPING AROUND IN THESE TAIL-KICKERS!

HAH! YOU MISSED!

TOO BAD FOR YOU, DOOFUS!

CAN'T LET HIM BEAT ME, OR I AM--

WOOF

AS FOR YOU CHICKS--

--YOU OUGHTTA BE GLAD I DON'T HIT AND TELL!

HOW ABOUT GOING FOR A SWIM, INSTEAD?

MAN, WAS THAT EVER LAME, OR--

OOOW!

THWAK!

NICE MOVE, LI'L BUDDY--

--BUT I CAN COUNTERSPIN YOUR MOVE WAY PAST FAST!

TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE MY RIPMONSTER CD FOR YOU TO GROOVE ON WHILE DAZED AND CONFUSED!

AS FOR YOU, TUSKY--

--YOU'VE COTTON FOR BRAINS TO EVEN THINK YOU COULD OUTRACE MY SONIC SPIN!

MUCH AS I LIKE MY TOYS--

--YOURS CAN BE A BIT MUCH!

SMAASH

BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME UP FOR AIR.

CLEAN LIVIN' AND STRONG CURRENTS HEADING DOWNSTREAM CAN WORK WONDERS!

TO SAY NOTHING OF THE SPEED!

NOW, THEN--SINCE I'M NOT YOUR BUDDY, FRIEND, COMPADRE, AMIGO, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR TERM OF ENDEARMENT--

--ALL I WANNA DO IS JUST GO HOME!

HOME?

YOU MEAN-- YOU'RE NOT--

BINGO!

SO--HOW DO I GET BACK?

AS EVIL ROTOR SOLVES SONIC'S DILEMMA, EVIL SONIC IS SWEATING OUT HIS...

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

WHY ISN'T HE PUTTING THE MOVES ON HER?

FINALLY! HE'S SHOWING A PULSE!

IF THAT BABELICIOUS BAT DOESN'T LIGHT HIS FIRE, HE'S A LOST CAUSE!

I'VE BEEN ALONE MOST OF MY LIFE--

--WITH NO ONE TO TURN TO!

WHILE I CAN RELATE--

--I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU WANT!

SOMEBODY TO LOVE ME!

IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

SHE SURE KNOWS HER STUFF!

THERE'S MY CUE!

LAY IT ON THICK, BABE--

--AS I'M GOING TO NEED EVERY SECOND BEFORE YOUR PAL GETS WISE!

OH, YEAH!

TIME TO GRAB THE BOOTY!

GAME OVER, LOSER!

THAT VOICE!

AND IT SURE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE MY ECHO!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT--

--THOUGH NOT MUCH ELSE!

NO THANKS TO THAT GANG OF SCREW-UPS I LEFT BEHIND!

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT BACK!

ROTOR'S SPARE ZONE-LINK GENERATOR MADE IT A SNAP--

--EVEN BROUGHT ME TO YOU!

HE ALWAYS WAS PRETTY USELESS IN A FIGHT!

SO NOW WHAT?

CONSIDERING THIS PLACE JUST GOT FIXED, AFTER RO-BUT-NIK TRASHED THE PLACE, YOU COULD GO BACK TO YOUR CRIB!*

Y'THINK I WOULD WIMP OUT LIKE THOSE CHUMPS ON MY HOMEWORLD?

*AS SEEN IN SONIC #138-141.

FOR A MINUTE THERE--

YEAH, I DID!

GUESS YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN SELF, THEN!

BETTER THAN YOU, POSEUR!

POSEUR ?!?

YOUR NAME "ANTOINE" NOW?

WHAAM

LET'S SEE YOU...

...BACK UP THE TRASH YOUR MOUTH MAKES!

LIKE I'M SCARED OF A WUSS LIKE YOU?

THWK

SPEAKING OF WUSSES--

--YOU DIDN'T GET THESE FAIR AND SQUARE!

BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY, BABE--

--WHATEVER IT TAKES--

--SO THAT I'M NUMERO UNO--

THWOK

--AND YOU'RE NOT!

NEARBY...OUTSIDE... AT THAT MOMENT...

SOMETHING'S WRONG!

THE CHAMBER!

LOCKE --?

HUH?

WHOOSH

I SENSE DANGER TO THE CHAOS EMERALD!

ROUGE MUST HAVE BEEN A DIVER-SION.

THE EMERALD YET STANDS--

--BUT WHO COULD IMAGINE THE THREAT COMES FROM AN ASSOCIATE OF MY SON, KNUCKLES?

ASTONISHING! TWO OF HIM!

SONIC WOULD NEVER RESORT TO A WEAPON--

--THE ONE ON TOP MUST BE THE RINGER!

THIS IS WAY TOO GOOD A GIG--

--TO GIVE BACK TO A DOPE WHO HASN'T A CLUE!

SAYONARA, SIMP!

STOP!

YOU'LL LEAVE NOW OF YOUR OWN *VOLITION*--

--OR I'LL *SHOW* YOU THE WAY *OUT!*

YEEOOW

ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT*, SON?

YOU APPEAR TO HAVE *SUFFERED SEVERAL NASTY BRUISES!*

I'LL BE *OKAY!*

I WAS JUST GETTING MY *SECOND WIND* WHEN YOU STEPPED IN!

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS--

"--IT'S ALWAYS *ROUGH* WHEN YOU'RE YOUR OWN *WORST ENEMY!*"

...SIGH...

THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR SEND-ING A MALE TO DO A *FEMALE'S* JOB!

TOTALLY PATHETIC!

NOTHING MORE HERE FOR ME NOW!

MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK OUT THE PICKINGS *DOWNUNDA!*

I HEAR THERE'S A NICE COLLECTION THERE!

YO, BABE--

--HOLD UP A MINUTE!

WHY SHOULD I?

IT ISN'T LIKE WE'RE *BEST FRIENDS* OR ANYTHING!

'CAUSE WHILE I DIDN'T GET THE *CHAOS EMERALD*--

--I DID PICK UP A FEW *ODDS'N'ENDS!*

YOU *LIKE?*

OOOH!

LET'S JUST SAY--

--THE *BOTH* OF YOU HAVE *POTENTIAL!*

HOW ABOUT WE GO DISCUSS THIS SOME-PLACE MORE *PRIVATE?*

YOU'RE SPEAKIN' MY LANGUAGE, DOLL!

I'LL FLY THE FRIENDLY SKIES WITH YOU *ANYWHERE!*

AN HOUR OR SO LATER, SONIC IS BACK ON THE GROUND NEAR KNOTHOLE...

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, MISTER L!

YOU TAKE CARE, SONIC!

BROAAR

NEVER DID FIND OUT WHAT MY DORKY DOUBLE WANTED OVER HERE!

I MEAN--WHAT DID HE THINK HE WOULD GET OUT OF BEING ME?

SONIC! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

OH, HI, AMY!

NEED SOME SERIOUS TLC? I'M THERE, HON!

...UH'H...

BEFORE LONG, SONIC HAS WALKED AMY ROSE HOME...

IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TOMORROW--?

I'LL LET YOU KNOW...

LATER!

WHAT'S WITH AMY ROSE?

I DON'T EVER REMEMBER HER COMING ON TO ME LIKE THAT BEFORE!

HEY THERE, SUGAH!

THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU MADE UP FOR OUR STAYING OUT LATE?

FIRST AMY, NOW BUNNIE--

WHAT'S NEXT?!

A GOOD QUESTION, AND IF YOU, DEAR READER, WANT TO KNOW, YOU'LL MAKE A DATE-OR TWO-OR THREE AND FIND OUT IN NEXT ISSUE'S **SONIC'S ANGELS: WAY PAST COOL!** FREEDOM FIGHTING WAS NEVER LIKE THIS!

SOMETIMES, IN TIMES OF WAR, WE FORGET THE *SIMPLE* THINGS.

WE BECOME SO CONSUMED WITH FIGHTING AND STAYING ALIVE, WE FORGET WHAT IT IS TO *BE* ALIVE.

BIP
BIP

WAS I JUST DREAMING, OR...?

NICOLE? DID YOU DETECT ANY MOVEMENT A MOMENT AGO? ARE YOUR FILES SECURE?

SHE MUST BE IN SLEEP MODE.

I KNEW I SAW SOMETHING!

AH HA!

AH! PRINCESS SALLY! YOU SURPRISED ME!

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? WAIT A MINUTE... HOW COME YOU SOUND LIKE NICOLE?

BECAUSE... I AM NICOLE.

BUT... HOW? HOLOGRAM?

YOU-- YOU'RE REAL!

NOT QUITE...

IT'S ACTUALLY A COMPLEX *SIMULATION* THAT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR SOME TIME. EVER SINCE I EXPERIENCED LIFE IN YOUR SHOES. IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT GAVE ME THE IDEA.*

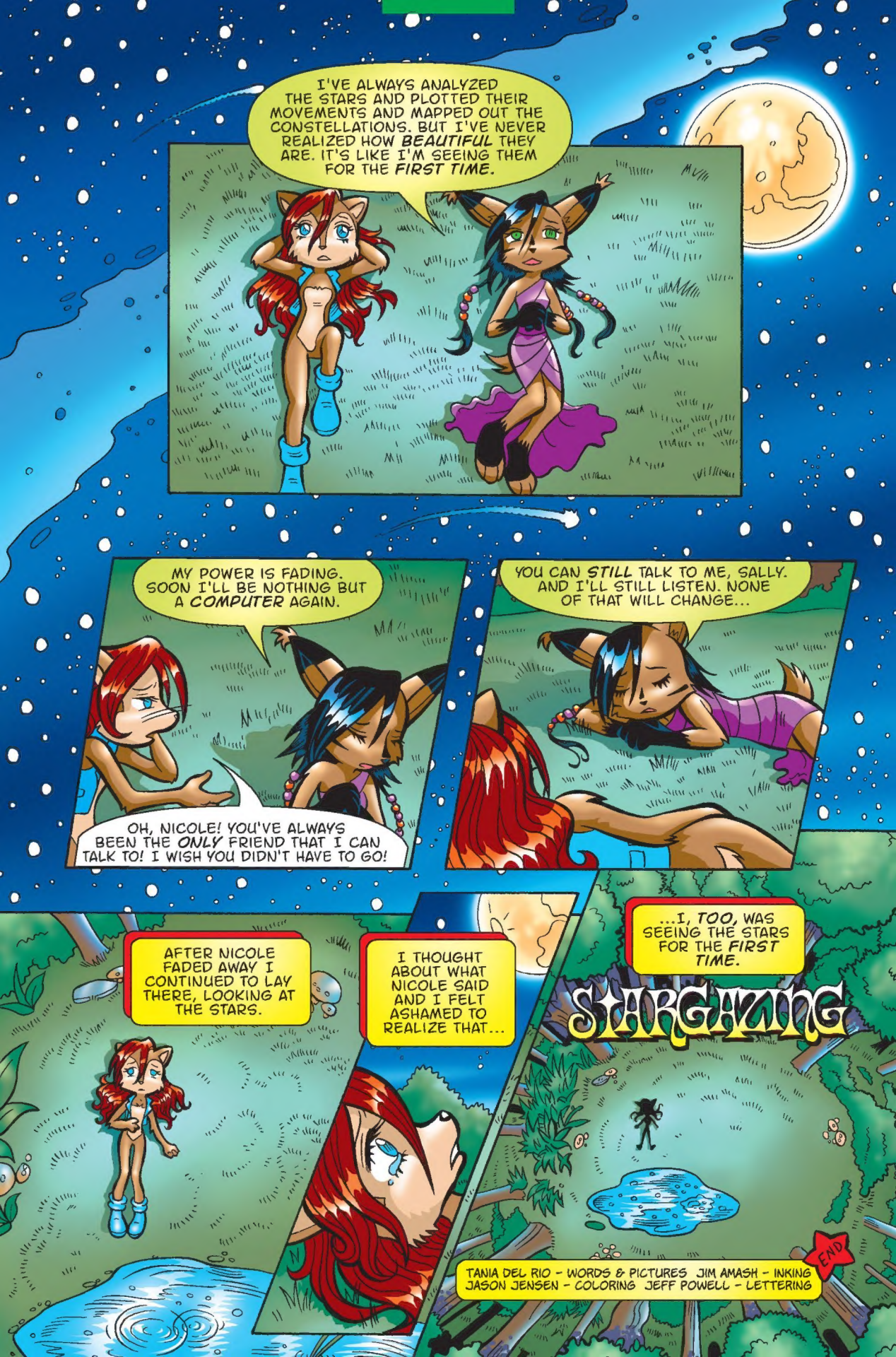
*AS SEEN IN "CIRCUIT ME" FROM *SONIC #146*

I'M ALREADY A SENTIENT BEING, SO I KNOW HOW TO *THINK* AND *REASON* AND EVEN UNDERSTAND BASIC EMOTIONS. BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO *BREATHE* AIR OR *FEEL* THE WIND ON MY FACE... OR *TOUCH WATER.*

I REALIZED HOW *LUCKY* YOU ARE, SALLY. SOMETIMES I WANT TO LIVE THE WAY YOU DO...

NICOLE! *STAY* THIS WAY! YOU'RE STILL A GENIUS, ONLY NOW YOU HAVE *MORE* CAPABILITIES! WE COULD USE ANOTHER FREEDOM FIGHTER LIKE YOU!

I'M *ALREADY* GETTING TIRED. THIS PROGRAM DRAINS A *LOT* OF ENERGY OUT OF ME-- I CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS LONG. ALSO, MY FILES AREN'T *SECURE* IN THIS FORM. THAT'S WHY I CHOSE TONIGHT, WHEN ALL THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE IN KNOTHOLE, WHEN *ROBOTNIK* IS LESS LIKELY TO ATTACK.


I'VE ALWAYS ANALYZED THE STARS AND PLOTTED THEIR MOVEMENTS AND MAPPED OUT THE CONSTELLATIONS. BUT I'VE NEVER REALIZED HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY ARE. IT'S LIKE I'M SEEING THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.
MY POWER IS FADING. SOON I'LL BE NOTHING BUT A COMPUTER AGAIN.
OH, NICOLE! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONLY FRIEND THAT I CAN TALK TO! I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO!
YOU CAN STILL TALK TO ME, SALLY. AND I'LL STILL LISTEN. NONE OF THAT WILL CHANGE...
AFTER NICOLE FADED AWAY I CONTINUED TO LAY THERE, LOOKING AT THE STARS.
I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT NICOLE SAID AND I FELT ASHAMED TO REALIZE THAT...
...I, TOO, WAS SEEING THE STARS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
STARGAZING
END
TANIA DEL RIO - WORDS & PICTURES JIM AMASH - INKING
JASON JENSEN - COLORING JEFF POWELL - LETTERING